REMARKS

Claims 9-21 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of March 6, 2003, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Claim Objections

Claims 9, 10, 13 and 14 have been amended to correct self-evident typographical errors.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 9-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The language of claim 9 is said to be ambiguous.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to recite that the galvanized alloy plating is formed on a steel sheet and then the steel sheet having the galvanized alloy plating there is treated by an anodic treatment.

Art Rejections

Claims 9-12 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Saitou et al. Saitou et al. are said to disclose a process for producing a surface blackened steel sheet wherein a galvanized steel sheet may be used to blacken the surface using cathodic electrolysis.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. As described in the examples of the present application, a galvanized alloy steel sheet is blackened using anodic electrolysis. In the examples, the surface of a galvanized steel sheet is dissolved by an anodic electrolysis, and the blackened compounds are deposited onto the surface of a galvanized steel sheet by a cathodic electrolytic process to form a black coating on the sheet. Therefore, the process for producing a surface blackened steel sheet of the present invention differs from that of Saitou et al. in the type of electrolytic process used.

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saitou et al. in view of Smith et al.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. As noted above, the process for forming a surface blackened steel sheet is different from the process of Saitou et

al. in that the galvanized steel sheet is first subjected to an anodic reaction, after which the sheet is subjected to a cathodic reaction to deposit the blackened material thereon. Even though Smith et al. disclose urethane resins having the hardness of the resin recited in claims 13 and 14, Smith et al. do not lead one skilled in the art to produce a blackened sheet according to the present invention. Smith et al. do not supply the missing element of the present invention, namely, that a galvanized steel sheet is first subjected to anodic electrolysis, followed by subjection to cathodic electrolysis to deposit the blackened material onto the sheet.

Claims 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishizaka et al. in view of Saitou. Ishizaka et al. are said to teach the film cartridges are made of steel so that when a film cartridge is loaded into a film chamber it is attracted by the permanent magnets. The Examiner concedes that Ishizaka et al. do not teach that the steel film cartridge has the claimed galvanized alloy plating, blackened surface, or a resin coating. The Examiner has cited Saitou et al. for a process for producing a surface blackened steel sheet.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner has conceded that Ishizaka et al. do not teach that the steel film used for producing cartridges has a galvanized alloy plating or a blackened surface. Saitou et al. do not anticipate or make obvious the present claims because Saitou et al. produce the coated steel sheet using only a cathodic electrolysis process. In contrast thereto, the sheet of the present invention is first subjected to an anodic electrolysis, and then to a cathodic electrolysis. Ishizaka et al. do not teach using both anodic and cathodic electrolysis to produce a blackened galvanized steel sheet. Therefore, Ishizaka et al. add nothing to the Saitou et al. disclosure to render the present invention obvious.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By _____
Anne M. Kornbau
Registration No. 25,884

Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528
AMK:nmp
G:\BN\T\TOYO\Komai4\PTO\may 20 03 amend.doc